

**From:** Ahmad Baitalmal  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 3:14am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm sending you this email to add my voice to the many voices asking to be heard regarding the Microsoft Settlement. While I do appreciate the efforts and hard work of your department in this matter, I do believe some key points have been missed. These points have been explained in great detail by Mr. Dan Kegel in his "Open Letter to DOJ Re: Microsoft Settlement" (<http://www.kegel.com/remedy/letter.html>). I have co-signed that letter also.

From my perspective as a software developer and as a decision maker in my organization, I have experienced the effects of Microsoft's anti-competitive practices first hand throughout my career. Through it's dominance, Microsoft has established it's proprietary APIs, Communication Protocols, and File Formats as global standards. Yet these global standards are still 100% under Microsoft's control. Many efforts to compete with Microsoft in serious fields have had to fight a technical uphill battle only to be thrown off by a change in the API or a new "feature" incompatibility.

Microsoft claims that it's competitors are using the legal system instead of competing on the technical level. In reality that is exactly what these competitors are asking for; opening up the APIs, the Communication Protocols and the File Format standards will level the playing field. It then becomes a matter of pure technical superiority that determines market share dominance and not marketing, entrapment, or intimidation muscle. That will unleash the industry's potential energy and benefit the economy and the American people.

With kind regards  
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